all the relevant provisions of the manual relating to the destruction of currency notes; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The special procedure followed by the Reserve Bank of India is duly approved by the Committee of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The RBI is having 15 full-fledged offices and three sub-offices for checking the notes before destruction.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The special procedure adopted by the Reserve Bank was necessary to quicken the pace of disposal of soiled notes accumulated at Regional Offices of RBI.

Backlog of income tax refund in Delhi

3155. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the backlog of cases of refund of income tax in Delhi has been increasing at an alarming rate year after year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that refund cases are not settled for months together causing hardships to the pensioners in particular and others in general; and

(c) the number of cases for refund of IT pending with the "Department in respect of Delhi/New Delhi IT assessecs only as on 31st October, 2001 and the steps taken for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) the refunds for assessment year 2000-01 were issued around March, 2001 and refunds which could not be delivered to the assessecs for various reasons such as change of address or premises locked etc. were posted on the Income-Tax Delhi Web Site.

(b) The refunds were issued to the senior citizens on the spot when the returns were received in July, 2001.

(c) Refunds become due to the assessees on the date the processing under section 143(1) of the Income-tax Act, is completed. As such 317 cases of refunds were pending as on 31.10.2001. The Assessing Officers have been instructed to despatch all refund vouchers by registered post with acknowledgement due within 15 days of the date on which the refund is determined.

Excise duty on decoiling Units of Iron and Steel segment

3156. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBEC has issued a circular dragging into excise net the decoiling Units of Iron and Steel segment;

(b) if so, what are the criteria therefore and the details thereof;

(c) whether Iron and Steel processing Association has submitted representation against this Circular; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Central Board of Excise & Customs issued Circular No. 584/21/2001-CX dated 7.9.2001 clarifying that if the proces of cutting and slitting of HR/CR coils of Iron or Steel, by the decoiling Units, results in change of heading/sub-heading as per the Central Excise Tariff, it would amount to manufacture and duty would be payable by these units.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government have issued notification no. 6/2002-CE dated 1.3.2002 (SI. No. 173 refers) exempting all units, which undertake the process of cutting and/or slitting of HR/CR Coils on job-work basis, from the whole of Central Excise duty, provided no CENVAT credit has been availed by the unit.